

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is an Examiners Amendment and Allowance of claims amended per the Appeal Decision (affirmed-in-part) of 12/22/2008 (BPAI Appeal 2008-4600).

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Atty Mark E. Scott (Reg# 43,100) on 1/26/2009.

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 18, 24, 28, 29, 33, and 36.

Please amend claims 1, 19, 27, 30, and 32 as follows:

1. A method of reconciling physical inventory against an asset management database, the method comprising:

placing identifying indicia on each location code in the asset management database;

taking a physical inventory;

creating raw inventory data;

transferring the raw inventory data to a web server;

converting the raw inventory data into an intermediate database;

creating a copy of the asset management database;

reconciling records in the intermediate database against corresponding records in the copy of the asset management database by way of a web browser; and

updating the asset management database with records accepted during the reconciling ~~step~~by writing location codes, associated with assets, to the asset management database without the identifying indicia; and identifying assets not found during the physical inventory in the asset management database by identifying location codes having the identifying indicia.

19. (Currently amended) The method as defined in ~~claim 18~~claim 30 wherein scanning with a hand held scanner bar codes identifying locations and bar codes identifying assets further comprises:

scanning a plurality of bar codes identifying locations; and
scanning a bar code identifying at least one asset associated with each location.

27. The method as defined in ~~claim 18~~claim 30 wherein converting the inventory data into an intermediate database further comprises converting the inventory data into a structured query language (SQL) database resident on the web server.

30. A method of taking a physical inventory and reconciling the physical inventory against an asset management database, the method comprising:
scanning with a hand held scanner bar codes identifying locations and bar codes identifying assets to create inventory data;
transferring the inventory data from the hand held scanner to a web server;
converting the inventory data into an intermediate database;
placing an identifying indicia on a portion of each record in the asset management database; and then
making a copy of the asset management database available on the web server;

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reconciling records in the intermediate database against corresponding records in the copy of the asset management database on the web server by way of a web browser; and

updating the asset management database with records accepted during the

reconciling by: ~~The method as defined in claim 29 wherein updating the asset management database with records accepted during the reconciling step further comprises writing the updated records without the identifying indicia.~~

32. (Currently amended) The method as defined in ~~claim 29~~ claim 30 wherein placing an identifying indicia on a portion of each record in the asset management database further comprises appending a code to the end of each seat code.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-17, 19-23, 25-27, 30-32, 34, 35 and 37-39 are allowed for reasons clearly articulated in the Decision of 12/22/2008 (Appeal 2008-4600) and that independent claims 1 and 30 have been amended herein to recite substantially the scope of claim 34, determined as non-obvious over the prior art of record. Specifically, the closest prior art Christensen (US Pat. 6,662, 193) does not teach or fairly suggest in view of the prior art of record, the steps of *identifying assets not found during the physical inventory in the asset management database by identifying location codes having the identifying indicia and identifying asset not found during the physical inventory in the asset management database by identifying location codes having the identifying indicia* (see Decision, pgs. 11-16) as recited in claims 1, 30, and 34.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dave Robertson whose telephone number is (571)272-8220. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 am to 5 pm, M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Albert Decady can be reached on (571) 272-3819. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Albert DeCady/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 2121

/Dave Robertson/
Examiner, Art Unit 2121